

enough to pay for the unfunded liability of Social Security alone, let alone Medicare and Medicaid.

I just cannot urge my colleagues enough or the American people to look at the consequences of what is going to happen if we do not deal with these important programs. Number one, Social Security probably is the most successful program that we have in terms of making sure our senior population does not live out the remainder years of their lives in poverty. So I think we cannot afford to let it go by the wayside.

Neither can we afford to put off the decision. The longer we put off the decision on Social Security, the greater and more drastic the changes are going to have to be.

We should have done it 4 years ago. We should have done it 6 years ago. How do we develop the leadership in the United States to make the tough decisions that need to be made to change these programs? I mean, I appreciate the political vulnerability that any politician goes through if they suggest change in a popular program. We have approximately 12 percent of our seniors that depend almost entirely just on their Social Security check.

I urge my colleagues to read this article in Roll Call. I ask my colleagues and the President of the United States to be more aggressive coming forward with programs and proposals that can be scored to keep Social Security solvent for at least the next 75 years.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Joseph S. Edmonds, First Baptist Church of Ballston, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. We thank Thee for Thy presence and for Thy love.

Help us to lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help. Our help cometh from the Lord, which have made heaven and earth.

We thank Thee for enabling our forefathers to establish freedom of speech, freedom to worship Thee, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

We thank Thee for those who represent the American people in this House. I pray they will have the faith and courage of our fathers to make correct decisions. May they be a bridge to peace and justice in this troubled world, and may they bring joy and fulfillment to the American people. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE REVEREND JOSEPH S. EDMONDS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to introduce this morning's guest chaplain, the Reverend Joseph S. Edmonds. Actually, it is not morning. It is now afternoon. Reverend Edmonds serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ballston in Arlington, which is just across the Potomac, in the 8th District of Virginia.

Madam Speaker, Reverend Edmonds was born in Grenta, Virginia, spent his childhood in the District of Columbia, not far from this very building. After attending public school in D.C., Reverend Edmonds obtained his undergraduate degree from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee and earned a Masters of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina.

Reverend Edmonds has been serving the Ballston community for over 10 years. He has been, and continues to be, a true shepherd to his congregation. Many have benefited from his spiritual guidance and generous spirit. Before moving to the Ballston area, Reverend Edmonds served communities in Maryland, D.C., and Florida.

On behalf of our district, I am pleased to welcome Reverend Edmonds here today.

RECOGNITION OF OCTORARA BOYS SOCCER CHAMPIONS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor some athletes from my district in Pennsylvania, the Octorara High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team. These outstanding young men are the 1999 Boys Double A Pennsylvania Soccer Champions.

Winning this State championship is no small feat. Octorara is not a large district, and they went up against some of Pennsylvania's traditional powerhouses. But what they lacked in size, they made up for in heart and determination.

Victory by victory, this team built a winning season and made it into a championship year. They were ably lead by their coaches, Chip Smallwood, Ken Baldt, and Paul Wood. The team is in Washington today with their principal, Hank Detering, receiving many well-deserved congratulations.

Madam Speaker, I just want to say that those of us from back home who watched this team fight its way to the top are very, very proud of them. So welcome to Washington, Octorara Braves. Let us do it again this year.

HAIDER'S INFLUENCE SEEN UNDIMINISHED

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, in a few days, we in this House will be voting on a resolution I introduced concerning the new government of Austria. Since the leader of this party, which is the Austrian government, the racist, xenophobic, neo-Nazi party has now resigned, it may be useful to ask why did he do so. He did not do so because he does not want to be part of the unpleasant political decisions that will have to be taken in Austria, tax increases, cutbacks on spending, layoffs of large numbers of government employees, but he is still the top man of this racist, xenophobic political party.

One of his principal allies, Deputy Speaker of Parliament Prinzhorn, yesterday said the following about his resignation: "It is not a resignation. He is a provincial governor and remains our strong man. It is a step backwards which is necessary in order to make two solid steps forward."

I am urging all of my colleagues who have not yet cosponsored this resolution to come on board. We cannot allow the new Europe to have governments in which neofascist parties play a key role. The European Union has expressed itself; it is time we do so.

TIME TO REPEAL THE SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)